

RESTORING A LOST HABITAT



Habitat along the seawall

In the early 1900s, the mudflats and gently sloping beaches of Elliott Bay were filled in to make way for concrete, steel, and piers. These changes force juvenile salmon that migrate along the edges of Elliott Bay to navigate around the piers into deep water, which leaves them with little food and shallow habitat, and vulnerable to predators.



Restoring a salmon migration corridor and improving ecosystem productivity are an important part of the Elliott Bay Seawall Project.

Adding light

Approximately 90 percent of the central waterfront is covered with piers and other over-water structures, resulting in stark contrasts between light and dark areas.



Dark areas (under piers) support little habitat.

Juvenile salmon hesitate to swim under the waterfront piers due to the lack of light. To restore natural light to shallower waters along the seawall, the Elliott Bay Seawall Project team

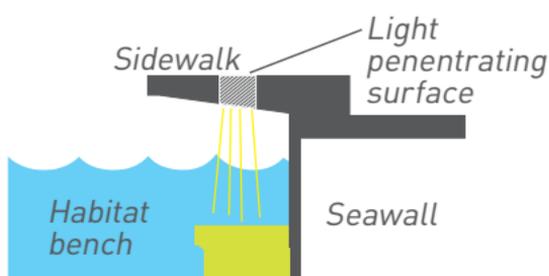


Light areas (between piers) have rich habitat.

is incorporating glass blocks and other light penetrating surfaces into the cantilevered sidewalk, allowing light to pass to the water and migrating fish below.

Optimizing depth

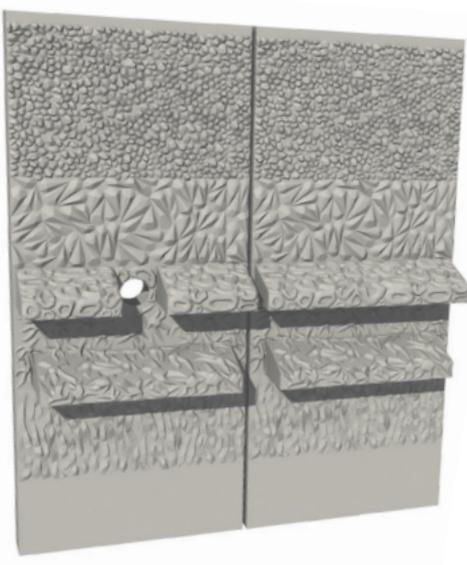
When the seawall was built, a large amount of fill was placed west of the natural shoreline to create Alaskan Way and provide new connections to the deep water piers. As a result, there is limited shallow water habitat near the seawall. Shallow water habitats are important refuge areas for small fish, including migrating juvenile salmon.



The Elliott Bay Seawall Project will install intertidal habitat benches to create a continuous shallow water corridor for juvenile salmon to travel along the waterfront.

Incorporating texture

The face of the new seawall has cobbled surfaces and shelves extending from the wall's surface to promote growth of vegetation and marine invertebrates – both important food sources for fish.



For more information

Visit our website or contact us to hear about our latest activities.

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